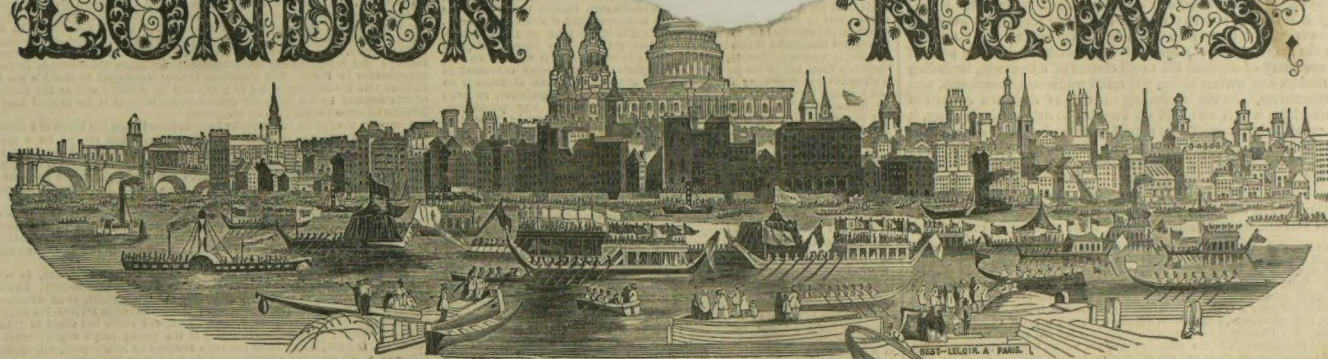


LONDON

RED NEWS



No. 464.—VOL. XVIII.]

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 1851.

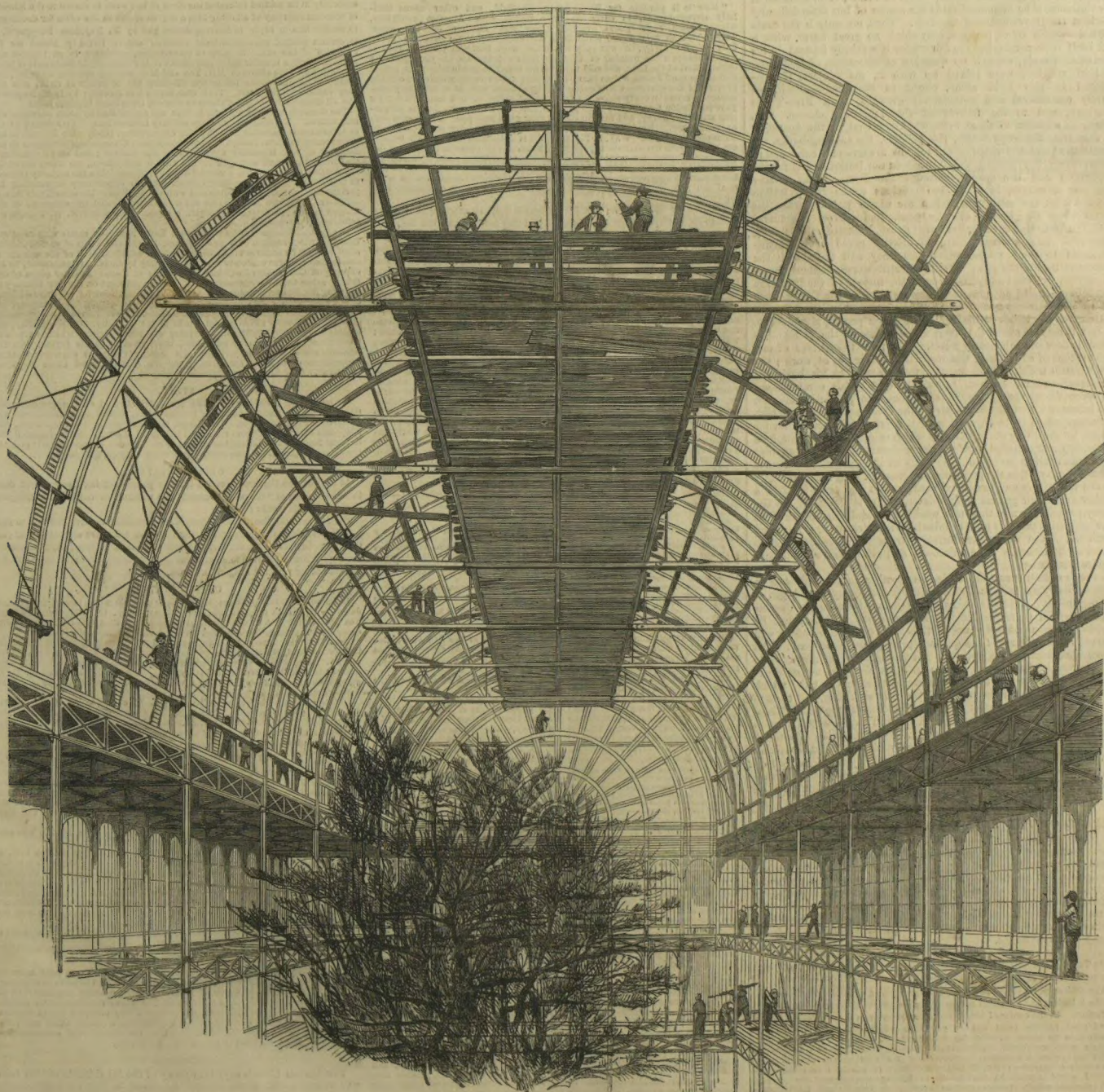
[SIXPENCE {WITH SUPPLEMENT,
GRATIS.

FREE-TRADE IN PAPER.

THE agitation which has been commenced for the Abolition of the Excise Duty on Paper does not appear to be sufficiently broad to satisfy a portion of the public. At the meeting convened last week at the London Tavern, though all were agreed that the tax was an evil, an addition was made to the resolution, which pledged the meeting to demand not simply the abolition of the tax upon paper,

but of the taxes upon advertisements and upon newspapers. A similar spirit has been manifested throughout the country at several of the meetings which have been held. It seemed, in some of them, to be considered that the abolition of the Excise Duty on Paper was a question more interesting to the paper manufacturers than to the public, and that it was more desirable to extend the agitation to the three great divisions of the taxes on general and political knowledge,

than to confine it to one. We are not of the number of those who think the abolition of the Excise Duty on Paper a mere matter of the shop, unimportant to the public; but, as friends of free discussion, and of the education of all classes of the people—which cannot be carried on as effectually as it might be, if paper be taxed—we are of opinion that the energies of the people should be concentrated upon a practicable point, and that the Government should not be allowed to justify a refusal, on the plea that too much is asked, or to go to sleep on its surplus, without being reminded of its duty upon this



THE GREAT EXHIBITION BUILDING.—VIEW, SHOWING THE RISE OF THE TRANSEPT.—(SEE PAGE 26.)

"I need secretly point out to you that which many of you have so much case to know, namely, the unfair manner in which the paper duty presses upon merchants, manufacturers, and other tradesmen; also, to how great an extent it operates in preventing the employment of I may say thousands of persons; for, if this duty were repealed, I am convinced that it could be made to find employment for at least 500 persons within twelve months after such repeal. Now, most of you are aware that the paper duty amounts to nearly 15 per cent, and by far the great bulk of the paper that is manufactured does not sell whole-

has been adopted by the committee of this institution:—"The Committee of the Leicester-square Soup Kitchen, taking into consideration the favourable opportunities possessed by the clergy, scripture readers, and City missionaries of the metropolis, of acquiring a correct knowledge of the privations and sufferings of the poor, and of being enabled to administer relief and assistance as to the extent to which the usefulness of their labours is impeded during the winter season by the want of means to supply the temporal necessities of the sick and afflicted, and those who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation, resolve that the clergy, &c., be empowered to give to all distressed persons under their visitation (not exceeding two quarts of soup and a half-quartern loaf) as they shall see fit, and that the same be distributed in the most judicious manner, and to such extent (not exceeding two quarts of soup and a half-quartern loaf) as they shall see fit, from personal knowledge, may be deemed expedient."

it, the rev. gentleman has readily acceded to their wishes.



NEW IRON BRIDGE AT ST. PETERSBURG.

CAST-IRON BRIDGE AT ST. PETERSBURG.

In this age of iron, its employment in almost every description of structure is a measure of wise economy. The city of St. Petersburg has just received an addition of this class, in a cast-iron bridge across the Neva. A metal bridge, is not, however, a novelty in St. Petersburg; for several of the canal bridges are of cast-iron, and some are on the suspension principle.

This last new structure is a beautiful embellishment to the city which, many years since, was said to equal the united magnificence of all the cities of Europe. In the accompanying View, the Artist has shown the Bridge, with the broad and lofty granite buildings on the quay, thus forming a very effective *coup d'œil*.

The building of this Bridge has been an engineering work of great difficulty; the unstable nature of the mud bed of the river having hitherto been an insurmountable obstacle to the very necessary formation of a permanent communication between these two portions of the city. This has, however, been effected by driving piles into the river bed, and filling up the interstices with stones. Thus a solid foundation has been obtained to support the weight of the granite piers, and to resist the pressure of the vast and rapid volume of water which, by the contraction of the river, has here acquired a depth of 30 feet.

The entire length of the Bridge is 1100 feet, or nearly so; the centre arch being 156 feet span. The arches at one extremity rest on a massive pier constructed at 100 feet from the northern shore, with which it is connected by two bridges moving on pivots, to allow the craft to pass up and down the river.

The Bridge was completed on the 21st of November last, and was opened by the Emperor in person, after the priests had performed the ceremony of consecration, &c. A large concourse of people followed his Imperial Majesty over the Bridge, and crowded round to testify their regard and affection; while others seized the traces of his carriage, and drew him along amidst the acclamations of the multitude.

It is remarkable that this day was the 25th anniversary of the Emperor's accession to the throne—a day considered fatal to Russian Monarchs—and yet his confidence was so great, that he ventured without an escort, and attended only by his staff, who were almost immediately separated from him by the throng: not a soldier was to be seen in the neighbourhood.

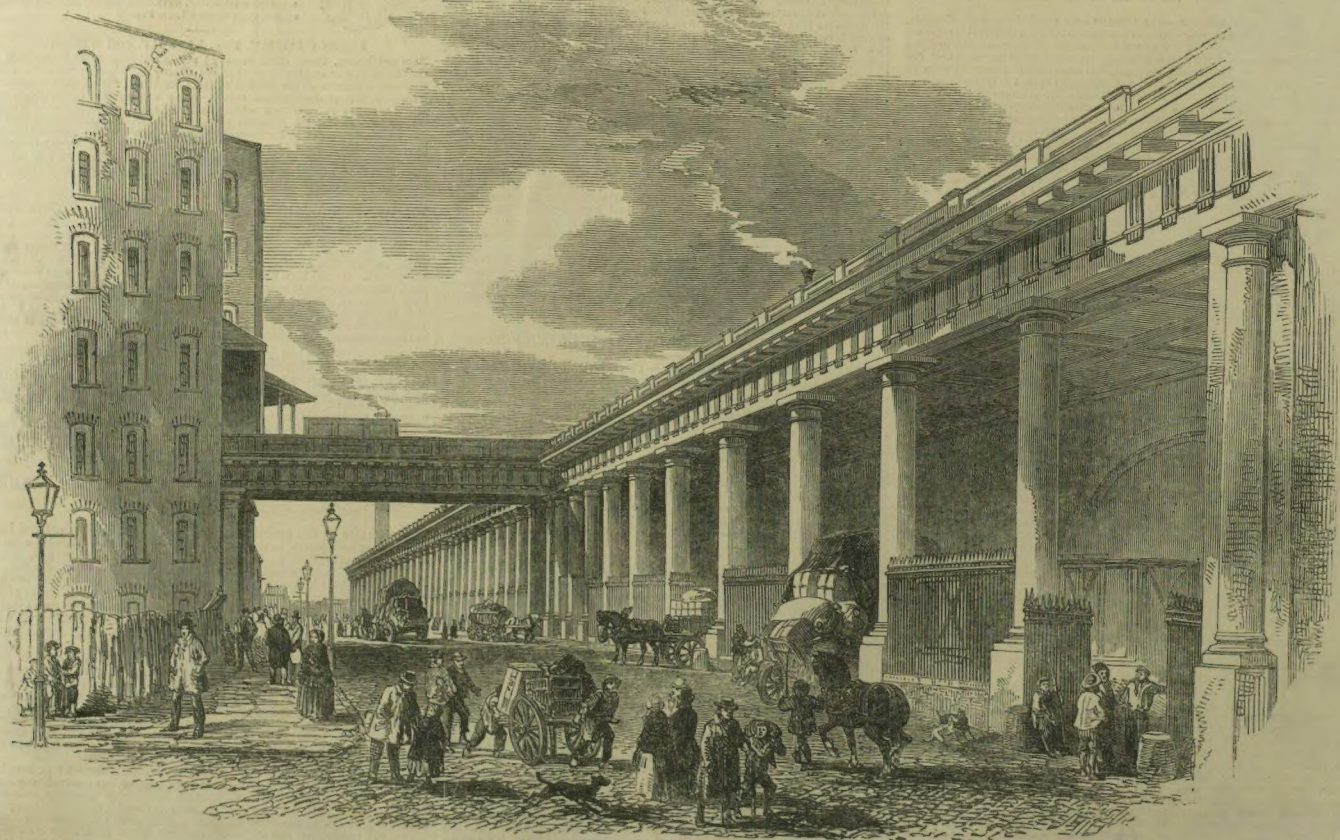
The Emperor, in very flattering terms, thanked the merchants of the place for the assistance they had rendered him in this costly undertaking; he also conferred a decoration and a General's epaulettes on Kelbitz, the engineer officer under whose superintendence and direction the Bridge had been built.

We have to thank our obliging Correspondent (K.B.) at St. Petersburg, for the sketch of the new structure.

IRON RAILWAY VIADUCT AT MANCHESTER.

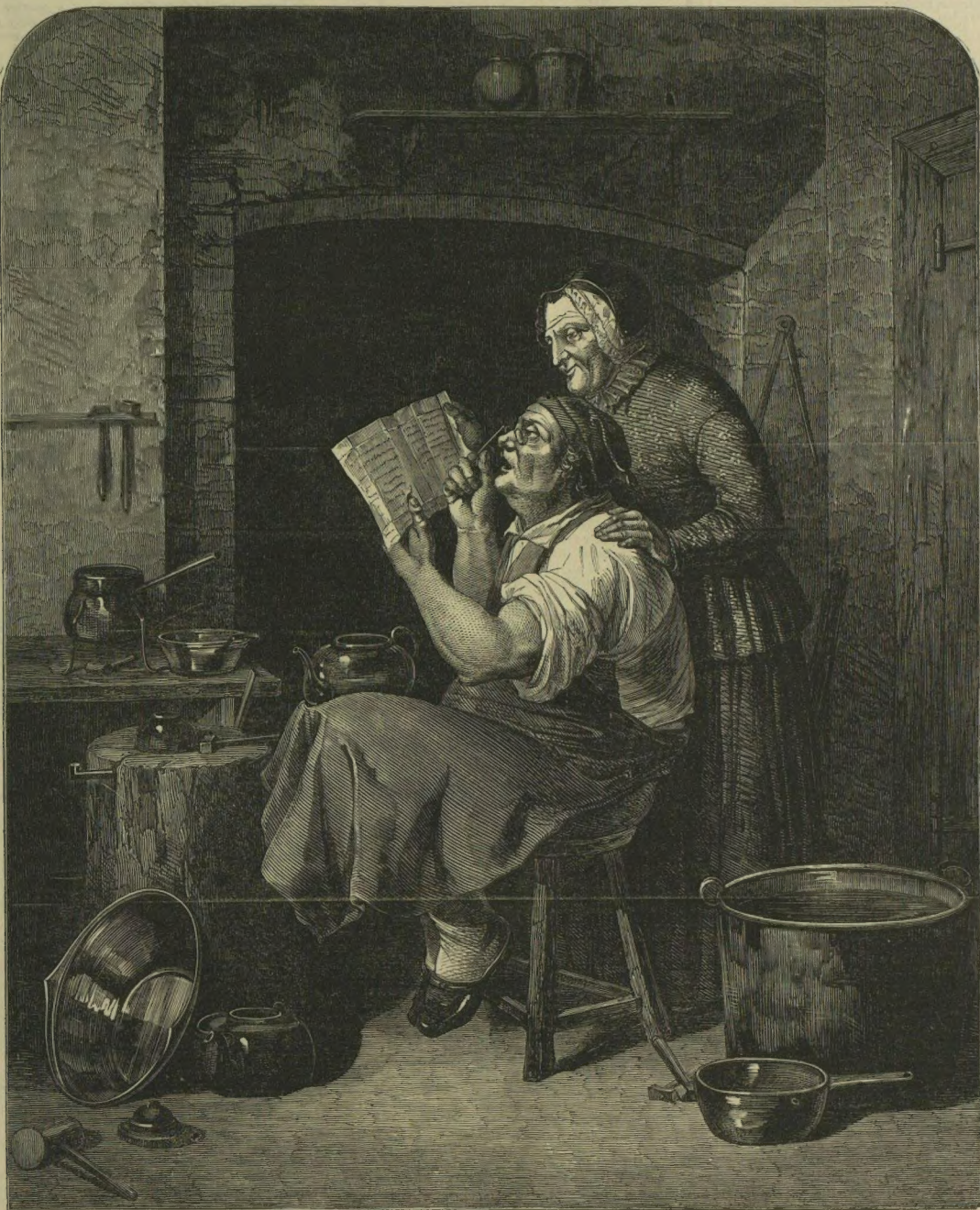
This stupendous Viaduct has been erected for the joint station, at Manchester, of the London and North-Western and the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire Companies; and carries the railway traffic over the goods-station of those Companies, with which it communicates by hoists. It consists of an immense platform, 700 feet long, 35 feet wide, with three lines of rails, and twenty-one turn-tables; is constructed almost entirely of iron, supported by large cast-iron girders resting on Doric columns, and surmounted by a beautiful entablature, forming, at top, the enclosure of the station towards Sheffield-street. The Viaduct extends across Store-street, for communicating with a large range of warehouses, by a bridge of 68 feet span, formed of a series of wrought-iron tubular girders, constructed upon a new and improved principle. The whole forms the most extensive and novel structure of the kind in the kingdom. The cast-iron beams and the turn-tables are made of Stirling's patent toughened cast-iron. The work has been constructed and carried out by Messrs. Robinson and Russell, of Millwall Iron Works, London; from the designs of Mr. Alfred S. Jee, the engineer of the railway companies. It consists of 38 columns, 20 feet in height, each weighing 6½ tons; and 193 girders, weighing 448½ tons; 43 pieces of entablature, each 54 cwt.; besides cornices, parapets, wall-plates, &c.; the entire weight of cast iron in the Viaduct being 974½ tons; of wrought iron 40 tons: total, 1014½ tons.

Viewed from Store-street, it is a very imposing and ornamental structure.



NEW IRON RAILWAY VIADUCT, AT MANCHESTER.

F I N E A R T S .



THE COPPERSMITH AND HIS WIFE.—PAINTED BY SCHLEISNER.

This interesting picture of familiar life is painted by Schleisner, and the property of Ludwig, ex-King of Bavaria; and is described as in the private gallery of modern paintings in the Palace of Schleisheim, about seven miles from Munich. The incident represented is an old coppersmith, who is reading, or rather attempting to read, a letter; his wife is listening, as well as reading, to judge by her expression, the welcome news. The smith has left off work to devour the intelligence around him are the implements of his trade, and a few copper vessels. The composition is clever and effective; and the incident is one of those pleasing touches of domestic life which are sure to find response in many hearts.

Possibly this picture may have been removed from the Palace of Schleisheim; for, since the completion of the Pinacothek at Munich, the private gallery has been stripped of the choicest portion of its contents, to furnish out the metropolitan collection; and it is now reduced to little better than a large lumber-house.

MUSIC.

FOREIGN MUSIC NEWS.

Scribe and Halévy's "Queen of Spades" has proved a trump card for the Théâtre de l'Opéra Comique. The plot, although exceedingly complicated, is very interesting. M. Scribe has taken M. Mérimée's translation of a romantic story by Pouchkine, the Russian poet, who was killed in a duel with a Frenchman, and has spun out three acts of a drama, combining the fantastic with the terrible, the pathetic with the comic. The dramatic imbroglio excites the deepest attention—a strong recommendation for a Parisian auditor, but which we in London might call tiresome. The main incident turns on the possession of a secret at cards, by the Countess Doria d'Ogorkouk (Mme. Ugalde), by which winning is reduced to a certainty. The aforsaid secret was that of the Empress Elizabeth, who cheated her courtiers by her knowledge of the three, the ten, and the Queen of spades. The Countess is courted by Prince Colonel Zianon, a gambler, in order to obtain her card secret; but she is attached to Constantine Nelioff, a son of a disgraced Minister, whose children lose their rank; and this Constantine is serving as a sergeant in the army, and insulting the Colonel, his superior officer, is condemned to work in the salt-mines. After a variety of adventures, Constantine and the Countess are married, the secret proving to be a mere ruse, ruining the swindlers who tried to cheat at play with its supposed infallibility. Halévy has composed an overture. Battaillo is *Kaiser*, the chief of the miners; Boulo, the tenor, Constantine; Conderca is the Colonel; Riquier is the banker, Kalenberg; and Mlle. Meyer, Lisanka. The concerted pieces of the gambling scenes were extremely effective.

Madame Sontag played last week at the Théâtre Italien, in Paris, *Norina*, in Donizetti's "Don Pasquale," *Linda* and *Maria*, in the "Figlia del Regimento;" in the first opera, Lablache, Calzolari, and Colini were included in the cast.

Baïfe, the composer, was in Paris, but will return to London for his Exeter Hall Concert, on the 27th inst.

Whilst London remains without a National Opera, the arrangements for a third lyric theatre are almost completed in the French capital. The locality will be either the Théâtre Historique or the Vaudeville. It must be recollected that

the Government supports, by large grants of money, the Grand Opera and the Opéra Comique, and that a vote of money will, no doubt, be obtained for the third undertaking. And yet in our metropolis, with a population of two millions—with the finest choral and orchestral talent in the world—with many distinguished leading vocalists and most eminent composers—there is not a single theatre devoted to English opera. Our writers are distributed in every direction: Sir H. R. Bishop is a lecturer; John Barnett is a singing-master at Cheltenham; Vincent Wallace is in America; Baïfe is obliged to produce his works in France or Germany; Edward Loder and Macfarren are teachers; Sterndale Bennett gives piano-forte lessons; Henry Smart is an organist, &c.; and our singers either go abroad or are confined to the concert-room. And yet, if there were a lyric establishment properly organized, there are available, as artists, Miss Catherine Hayes, Miss Clara Novello, Miss Birch, Miss Louisa Pyne, Mrs. Sims Reeves (Miss Lucombe), Miss Bingley, Miss Miran, Miss P. Horton, Mrs. Weiss, Miss Poole, Miss Annie Romer, Mrs. Bassano, Mrs. D. King, Miss K. Fitzwilliam, Mrs. E. Seguin, Mrs. A. Newton, Miss Lanza, &c.; Messrs. Sims Reeves, Travers, King, Barker, Harrison, Rafter, Allen, Borran, Weiss, Burdill, Whitworth, Drayton, Leffler, Phillips, &c.; besides a host of untried talent.

Mr. Frederick Gye is in Berlin to make arrangements for the opening of the fifth season of the Royal Italian Opera, Covent-Garden. Maralti, the tenor, who appeared last year at that lyric establishment, has just made a very successful *début* in Paris, at the Grand Opera, as *Arnold*, in Rossini's "William Tell."

A new opera, entitled "Malek-Adel"—the same subject treated by Costa, at her Majesty's Theatre, some years since—has been produced at Seville, composed by Ventura Sanchez. We learn from Madrid, that Madame Frezzolini and M. Barrollet had delighted the *habitués* of the Oriente, in Bellini's "Beatrice di Tenda."

The "Barbier," with Albini, Gardoni, and Ronconi, was looked forward to with the most intense interest.

Signor Schira has been engaged to compose a grand opera for the Royal Theatre in Turin.

MUSICAL EVENTS.

The London Operatic Concert Company of 65 performers, under the direction of Signor Lanza, gave their first concert on Wednesday night, at the Music-Hall, Store-street. Signor Lanza's "grand comic operatic serenade," "Hamut and Zelena; or, Strategem for Strategem," was sung, supported by Mlle. Lanza, Mrs. Durand, Messrs. T. Williams, W. A. Payne, Durand, Drayton, Mattocks, and Read. Mr. H. Grischach was the leader of the band. In the miscellaneous selection, Mrs. A. Newton, Miss Eliza Ward, Mr. Bridge Frodsham, and Master Ward appeared. A new *serenata*, by C. S. Hervé de la Morinière, called the "Baptized Fay," and a new operatic *divertissement*, by a popular composer, are announced.

Miss Charlotte Pearson gave a *soirée musicale* on Thursday, assisted by the Misses Deasano and Messrs. Mr. Herbert, and Signor Marchetti. Next Wednesday, at St. Martin's Hall, at the third of Mr. Hullah's Monthly Concerts of Ancient and Modern Music, four compositions by M. Charles Gounod, of Paris, will be performed for the first time. This is the composer whose opera of "Sappho" for Madame Viardot is now in preparation at the Grand Opera in Paris.

In the musical bibliography of the past year are the names of Alexander Piccini, Pavesi, Guénere, Circa, de Felice, composers; Alizard, Botelli, Chais, W. Seguin, and Meadames Branchu, St. Aubin, Gavaudon, Boulanger, Bessin, Sarah, Jansenne, Grassini, Dufon, singers; Mme. Dulcken, Lyon, A. Schilling, Pedro Soler, Joseph de Blumenthal, Mosin, Ullmann, instrumentalists.

As an illustration of our remarks, elsewhere, on the disgrace attached to this country of not having a National Opera, we have to record the most brilliant

triumph achieved by Miss Catherine Hayes, on her *début* at the chief theatre in Rome, on the 26th ult. (St. Stephen's night); she appeared as *Elvira*, in Bellini's "Parlanti;" and after the "Polacco," Miss Hayes was called for three times; and after the *serenata* "Qui la voce," which created quite a *furor*, again and again did she receive ovations. Four times the usual prices were paid for admission, and the Apollo Theatre was crammed to excess.

Mlle. Lucicola, a vocalist, who is stated to possess a most extraordinary voice—a pure tenor in quality, will make her *début* at Mr. Baïfe's forthcoming concert at Exeter Hall.

The Sacred Harmonic Society will repeat Mendelssohn's "Elijah" on the 20th instant.

THE THEATRES.

The only theatrical event of the week is the attempt made on Monday at DECAT LAW, in the character of *Coriolanus*; which, though wanting in fire and rapidity, was distinguished by elaborate care and polish. Mrs. Weston performed *Voltemia* in a respectable manner. But this reproduction of plays for a single night, with but little attention to the *mise en scène*, far from funis, in our opinion, the great aim of a national dramatic establishment.

Mr. H. Russell was to have read, on Tuesday, the First Part of "Henry IV., at St. Martin's Hall; but, owing to an inveterate hoarseness, he was compelled to discontinue his audience. Much as we lament the occurrence, some pains we think, should have been taken, as Mr. Russell's cold seems to have been of long standing, to prevent the loss of time incurred by an unnecessary attendance on the part of audience and critics.

MINUTE PENMANSHIP.—We have just seen a very remarkable specimen of minute calligraphy, being ninety-seven of the *Psalms of David*, written in whole-length portraits of her Majesty and Prince Albert, and a host of accessories, forming a *tableau* of 20 by 48 inches. The writer commences with the 1st Psalm, and extends to the 97th, thus including 1471 verses. The whole has been designed and written by Albion Richard Snelling, a biscuit-baker, of 95, Vauxhall-street, Lambeth, who states the labour to have occupied him six entire months. It has been shown to her Majesty and Prince Albert, who were graciously pleased to express their admiration of its extraordinarily minute ingenuity. It is intended for display at the Great Exhibition.

PROPOSED RAILWAY IN EGYPT.—The route to be taken on starting from Alexandria is parallel to the Mahmoudieh Canal, along the embankment which separates Marcote from Lake Mariout, as far as the point where the canal bends to the east; and then, avoiding the more cultivated districts, the line should skirt the Desert, east of the Natron lakes, and finally terminate at the village of Ghizeh, opposite old Cairo. Of the materials necessary for the construction of a railway, Egypt, unfortunately, possesses but few; timber and iron, the most important of all, there is absolutely none; all must be imported from more favoured countries; but, while these materials are not found on the spot, as it were to compensate in some measure for the deficiency, the climate is most propitious to their preservation: the unpainted lattice windows of Cairo shew this; there are plenty of them to be seen upwards of 100 years old, and still in perfect preservation. The life of an unprepared sleeper in this climate may be fairly estimated at from 35 to 40 years; the principal cause of this durability is the extreme dryness of the air, Egypt being situated in the rainless district of Africa.—From pamphlet by Aston Key, C.E.

LONDON, SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 1851.

THE Revenue returns do not show the surplus that was anticipated, but they nevertheless exhibit a state of national prosperity in the highest degree satisfactory. Notwithstanding the remission of a portion of the duties on sugar and on foreign spirits, which came into operation in July last, and the abolition of Excise duties on bricks, amounting to nearly a million, and the reduction of the stamp duties to a large extent during the last parliamentary session, the quarter just ended has been nearly as productive as the corresponding quarter of last year. After all these deductions there has only been a decrease on the year of £126,089; but this decrease is apparent, not real; and turns out, on examination, to signify extraordinary items being duly allowed for—an increase of £164,942.

DAKING BURGLARY IN SUSSEX.—On Thursday morning week, about three o'clock, the mansion of the Misses Farncombe, called Dowland House, near the village of Uckfield, Sussex, was broken into by seven armed men, whose faces were disguised with nightcaps and crapes. The fellows secured the house, and then proceeded to search for valuables. The house was kept guard, the others proceeded to ransack the premises. They remained in the house nearly two hours, regaling themselves with ham, cheese, brand, wine, and spirits, and then, after their departure, getting clear off with their booty, consisting of silver plate, manilla, and other articles, and a quantity of costly jewellery, gold snuff-boxes, &c., one £10 and seventeen £5 Bank of England notes; and about £250 in gold and silver. A reward of £50 is offered for the apprehension of these six men, who there is no good reason to believe, were parties to the crime. The names of the persons who committed the crime. The apprehension of three of these was accidental, and took place on the evening of the burglary on another charge. The names of the three were, Thomas Hamilton, John Smith, and Thomas Taylor. The village called Groombridge, where Hamilton gave John Smith into custody on a charge of having taken a sovereign from him. In the meantime the police of the Tunbridge Wells district, having received intelligence of a burglary committed at Dowland House, on Thursday last, proceeded to the village, and the characters, proceeded to search them, and found upon them a £5 note of the Lewes Bank, a coat, umbrella, and mask. These were taken to Downlands, and the three were taken to the police station, where they were recognized by the butler and housekeeper of the Dowland House. The two men named Hamilton and Taylor, were taken after a desperate resistance, by the Guildford police, in a beer-shop in that town, and several of the articles stolen from the house at Downlands found upon them. The third man, John Smith, was taken at the same place, and the persons also found part of the stolen property, and a pistol loaded with silver bullets. He has been identified by the butler as the man who knocked him down with the pistol, and Carter as the man who kept guard over him. The scene of the robbery took place at a distance from Frimley, where the Rev. Mr. Hollett was recently murdered.

For remainder of Replies to Correspondents, see page 335 of the SUPPLEMENT given with the present Number.

BOOKS, &c., RECEIVED DURING THE WEEK.

The Bank of Bills of Exchange.—Who's Who?—Art Monopoly. By Mrs. Parkes.—The Moral Garden Vindicated.—Examples of Art Workmanship.—Graham on Health, &c.—"Peace be our Motto."

CITY OF LONDON HOSPITAL FOR DISEASES OF THE CHEST.—On

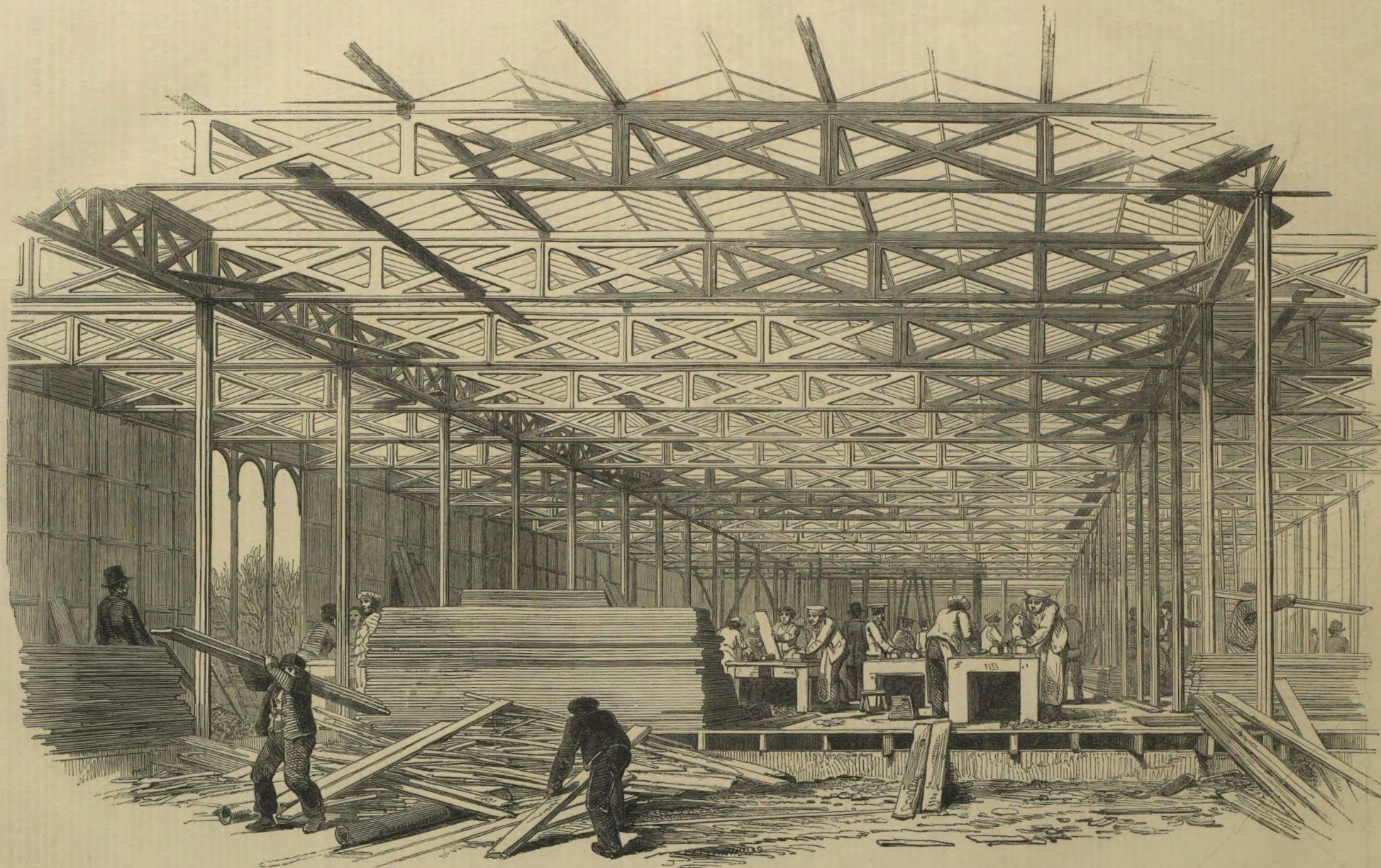
ma ure are taking place in the place of the robbery. — Much alarm and excitement has been caused among the nobility and gentry residing in the vicinity of Kensington, from the numerous and extensive robberies committed there of late. The premises, No. 28, Lower Pallmallor-place, Kensington, have been entered, and silver plate, value £100, and a large quantity of jewellery of the most costly description, gold watches, and about £170 in money carried off. The house, No. 1, Scarsdale-place, has also been entered, and a large quantity of valuable jewellery and plate, and, notwithstanding the exertions of the police, no clue can be gained as to the perpetrators.

burned; neither occurred at night. The next fire of any importance was that which occurred on the night of Thursday, the 3rd of October, in the Southwark Bridge-works. Although the engines of the brigade were stationed immediately opposite, and were ready to start at a moment's notice, the fire was not extinguished until the whole of Messrs. Brooke's candle-works were burned down, and several houses seriously damaged. The next district which suffered, and that to a serious extent, by fires, was Bermondsey. From the 17th of October to the 25th of November, 1845, there were no fewer than 11 fires, which, in consequence of the wind, which laid in ruins a vast amount of property. Among the buildings described as considerably damaged was the Travellers' Club. The report returns the number of buildings slightly injured during 1845, 621, whilst the number of buildings seriously injured was 10, showing an increase of 10 per cent. The total number of premises entirely destroyed and consumed in Bermondsey in 1845 was 236, being nine more than last year. The total number of fires of all kinds last year was 118, whilst in 1845 there were 120. The number of fatal fires last year was 17, whilst in 1845 there were 19. The false alarms during the last year were 91, whilst the year before they were only 75. The chimneys on fire last year were 79, whilst in 1845 there were 89. The number of fatal fires last year was 17, and in 1845 19. The number of fires caused by smoking pipes last year was 17, the same cause in the preceding year was 26, which shows a decrease of eight last year. The total number of calls for assistance during the past year was 1038, whilst in 1845 the calls were 1040, accounted for by an increase of 10 per cent. The number of persons injured by fires last year was 10, and in 1845 11, who were returned as being caused by smoking, gas, lucifer matches, snokers, smoking tobacco, drunkenness, and explosion of fireworks. Of the latter nearly 1000 houses were injured, and 1000 persons injured. The parish school and a spacious church in Spitalfields were destroyed by fire. The parish school and a spacious church in Spitalfields were destroyed by fire.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS.—Births registered in the week ending Saturday, Jan. 4.—Males, 829; females, 763; total, 1592. Deaths during the same period:—Males, 693; females, 767; total, 1360. Taking ten corresponding weeks of the year 1898 as a basis of comparison (1841-50), it will be seen that the present return shows a greater number than the average, and that when the deaths rose to 1417; and 1847, when they were 1510, during a week of low temperature (the mean reading of the thermometer having scarcely exceeded 40°); and 1857, when they were 1564, when the mean temperature was 45°. The fatality was aggravated by influenza, which had not disappeared at the time of the epidemic on the decline. The average of the ten weeks 1671, which if corrected for increase of population, becomes 1273. The synoptic or epidemic list of deaths, 1898, shows that the present return is 1360, or exhibits little difference when compared with the previous week; but the cause of the affections of the respiratory organs shows a considerable advance, the deaths therein enumerated having risen from 264 to 321, a result probably due to the influence of the epidemic of influenza, which has been associated with a mean daily temperature which has been throughout the week much higher than is usual at this season, having ranged from 5 to 14 degrees above the average, that whereas bronchitis, pneumonia, and phthisis (or consumption) were fatal to 102, 101, and 147. Diseases of the organs of respiration, exclusive of hooping-cough and phthisis, were fatal in the aggregate, last week, to 321 persons, whilst the corrected average is only 257. Amongst epidemic, small-pox carried off 24 children, and 14 adults; scarlet fever, 14; measles, 14; whooping-cough, 88; and croup, 9. Typhus destroyed 48 persons of various ages (rather more than the average); influenza, 5; erysipelas, 14; diarrhoea, 19; a case of cholera, described as Asiatic, is recorded, of which the particulars are given in the next column. The patient, a female, 24 years of age, a house-keeper, aged 66 years, "Cholera, Asiatic (24 hours)." He came from the hospital to the workhouse, of which he had been an inmate three years; he was paralytic, and was suddenly seized with cholera on Sunday. But the sum of the deaths is 1360, and the number of persons who have been buried has increased by more than the fair contingent of cases on which inquests have been held, many at earlier dates, and a great majority of which fall under the several descriptions of poison, improper medicine, burns and scalds, hanging and suffocation (the latter being the most numerous), and the like. The cause of the poison, among whom was an infant, on the 26th inst., to which the nurse had given Dr. Fowler's powder (containing opium) by mistake, the medicine having been intended for the mother. Of 27 persons who met death from burns or scalds, 21 were males, and 6 females. Sixteen deaths occurred from drowning, and 48 from fractuæ oss. wounds, &c., of which 16 were by falls on the streets, or from windows, stairs, and scaffolds; 3 by falls on board ship, 10 by horses and carriages, 4 by machinery. A man was killed by a horse on the 25th inst., and a woman by a horse on the 26th inst. The latter died of want of breast milk; a man from privation, besides a child of 7 months "from disease of the head and scanty supply of food." Two men were the victims of Intemperance, besides two who received fatal injury while in a state

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.—At the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, the mean reading of the barometer was above 30 in. on Sunday; the mean of the week was 29.751 in. The mean daily temperature fluctuated between 47° and 59°; and on each day the work it was considerably higher than the average of the same day in ten years—on Sunday the excess being 1.4°; on Monday, 8.9°; on Tuesday, 11.6°; on Wednesday, 13.9°; on Thursday, 12.1°; on Friday, 7.1°; and on Saturday, 5.1°. The mean of the week was 47.1°. The wind was generally in the south west.

any of the time. From Italy to England, Dr. Layard was urged to choose the profession of the law; but his thirst for knowledge, his love of adventure, and his foreign tastes and habits, led him, after a brief articleship, to follow the native bias of his mind. He accordingly left England with no very definite object, in the hope of visiting some of the ancient and modern ruins of the East, and of the northern kingdoms. Having sojourned for some time in Germany, and several of the States on the Danube, he made himself master of the German language, and of several of the dialects of Transylvania. From Dalmatia he passed into the Balkan States, and so to Constantinople, where he was employed as a private living chief in ameliorating the condition of his semi-barbarous subjects. Travelling through Albania and Komelia, where he met with numerous adventures, he arrived at Constantinople, about the end of 1839. Here he made arrangements for visiting Asia Minor, and different parts of the East, and in 1840 he sailed for Smyrna, and thence to Aleppo, adopting the costume, and leading the life, of an Arab of the Desert, and acquiring a thorough knowledge of the manners and languages of Turkey and Arabia. In 1840 and 1841, Dr. Layard transmitted to the Royal Geographical Society, an itinerary of his travels, and a list of the principal objects he had seen, and of the antiquities and in the eleventh volume of the Journal of that Society, we have an account of the journey which he performed with Mr. Ainsworth, in April, 1840. He travelled in Persia in the same year, and he projected a journey for the purpose of examining Susa, and the ancient ruins of the Assyrian empire. His travels in Persia, and his account of them, had drawn the attention of the Geographical Society. With this view, he left Isfahan in the middle of September, in company with Schiffer Khan, a Baktyary chief; and having crossed the highest part of the great chain of Mughnabit, he visited the ruins of the city of Susa, and the great ruins of the city of Susa, and the great ruins of the city of Susa. He visited also the ruins in the plain of Mel Anir, and he copied some of the cuneiform inscriptions. The sculptures on the four tablets adjoining the natural vase, two colossal figures on which represent priests of the Magi, appear to be of ancient date, and he copied them. He also visited the ruins of the tribe of Diharanis, and robbed of his watch, c-compass, and other articles; but having complained to the Chief, and insisted on the re-



THE GREAT EXHIBITION BUILDING.—THE SOUTH AISLE LOOKING WEST.

THE GREAT EXHIBITION BUILDING.—DETAILS OF CONSTRUCTION.

(Continued from page 8.)

THE ROOF OF TRANSEPT.

In our Number of December 14th, at page 452, we gave an account of the mode adopted by the contractors of raising the massive ribs or principals, which, with the intermediate ribs and purlins, form the skeleton of the Roof of the Transept. In the present Number is a representation of the under-side of the Roof of the Transept, showing, in a more forward state, the "ridge and furrow" plan of covering it with glass, which is altogether so ingeniously contrived that no stoppage to the free passage of the rain-water to the lead flats can take place.

The principals or main ribs are placed at intervals of 24 feet, from centre to centre, and are made up of three planks, two of 2 inches in thickness and the middle one 4 inches thick, with a moulded piece on the under side 2½ inches thick, and two 11-inch planks at top, each one inch thick, and nailed together to form the gutter-board, the whole being firmly connected together by wrought-iron bolts passing through bolts of the same material running at top and bottom of each rib.

In order to form the ribs with the proper curvature, each plank, 13½ inches wide, was cut on one edge to its proper segmental form, and the two complements cut off were nailed to the lower or straight edge of the plank; the whole being put together so as to break-joint throughout, the length of each section so cut being about 9 feet 4 inches.

The preparation for the reception of the ends of the purlins was on this side the two wide planks were cut across so as to form a cavity to admit the ends of the purlins, the parts of the planks thus separated being connected together by cast-iron plates. The openings thus made were filled in temporarily with wooden blocks, until the joiners were ready to fit in the ends of the purlins.

In order to show that every part of the works of the "stupendous structure" has been matter of much thought and careful calculation, we need only mention here, as a further illustration, that the strength of every purlin has been duly calculated according to its relative position in the arch: thus, the three uppermost purlins, having the greatest strain on them, are each 13½ inches in depth by 4½ inches in width; while the four lower purlins on each side, having gradually less strain to bear, diminish regularly in depth to 9 inches, all having the same width as those at the crown; whereas the lowest one on each side of the arch, being nearly horizontal, is increased to a scantling of 8 inches by 6½ inches.

Between each pair of main ribs are two intermediate ribs, or, as called in ordinary roofing, *common rafters*, 4 inches deep by 3 inches wide. On the top of these are gutter-boards, in two thicknesses, as those described for the main ribs. The gutters, each 5 inches wide, are formed by two played fillets, let into and nailed securely to the upper side of the boards. These fillets also serve as abutments for the skylight bars, which are of the same section and size as those for the skylights in other parts of the building. Each bar is nailed at the lower end to the fillet, and at the upper end to the ridge-piece, which is formed of three pieces of fir, one above another, the lower section being 4 inches wide by 1½ inches thick; the middle piece, 3 inches by 1-3-16ths inch; and the upper piece, 2 inches by 1½ inch—the latter having a groove on each side to receive the glass. The three thicknesses are necessary in order to suit the curvature of the arch. The lower end of each ridge-piece is carried down to, and rests on, the lead flat.

Condensation gutters are formed in this roof, as in the roofs of the aisles and avenues, but by a different method. A sloping fillet is nailed on to each side of the gutter-board, and continued from the springing of the arch on one side to the corresponding point on the other. With a view to retain the ridges in their places, wrought-iron rods of ½-inch diameter extend from the purlins to the underside of the ridges.

In order thoroughly to carry off the rain water from every part of the roof, all the skylight bars are fixed diagonally from the ridge to the gutter, and the water collected in each curved gutter is carried into sloping trough at bottom, and thus discharged on to the lead flat, which is sloped towards the water-heads at tops of the hollow columns. Looking at the roof from the lead flat, the whole has a herring-bone appearance. The glass used for the skylights of the Transept is the same as that described for other parts of the building; but every piece of glass requires to be cut at each end to suit the angle formed by the sloping sash-bar, and the ridge-piece and gutter-board respectively.

Temporary ladders fixed to suit the arched roof are used for fixing the ridge-pieces, skylight-bars, &c.; but, in order to facilitate and expedite the glazing of this roof, travelling scaffolds are used, which are raised and lowered at pleasure by means of ropes and pulleys, and by the power of four men working a crab engine, placed on the lead flat contingents. Each travelling scaffold is formed with sides and ends, and has boxes, in convenient positions, for the glass, putty, and tools; the whole running on small iron friction-rollers, suited to the tops of the ridge-pieces which serve as rails: without such a contrivance the glazing of the roof of the Transept would have been almost an endless job. In the View of the underside of the Transept Roof workmen are shown in every position—some suspended, while others are on the ladders, or on the lead flats adjoining.

THE GREAT FANLIGHTS.

In the View, already referred to, is shown one of the two large Fanlights which terminate the north and south portions of the Transept, and which form such prominent features in the principal elevations of the Great Industrial Museum.

Cast-iron would have been too heavy for windows of so large a size, it was, therefore, determined by the contractors to form them chiefly of wood; and the manner in which this is so admirably carried out we shall endeavour to describe. As these Fanlight Windows form the ends of the Roof of the Transept, which is 72 feet in width, from centre to centre of its supporting columns, on either side, so the radius of each Fanlight is fixed at 36 feet, and the whole is formed of a bottom plate, four semi-rings, and eleven radial bars, all of wood, together with a central portion of open cast-iron work.

The outer ring is formed of 1½-inch deal sides, 4½-inch bottom, and 2-inch top, made up of two planks, the whole being nailed firmly to angle-plates within. The cross section of this ring is 2 feet 3 inches by 12 inches. In front of this ring is attached, by counter sunk screws passing through blocks, a flat semi-elliptical hollow moulding of cast-iron, 10 inches in width, and having a projection of 4 inches, which gives a finish to this part of the building, and corresponds with the general outline of the design. Stiffening pieces, 9½ inches wide by 2 inches thick, are fixed inside the rings, forming so many chord lines. The next ring is framed in a similar manner to that already described, but is only 16½ inches in width; it is also furnished with a cast-iron moulding, ½-inch thick, as above.

The third and fourth rings are of solid deal, 12 inches wide by 3½ inches thick, with a hollow cast-iron splayed projecting piece screwed in front thereof, to correspond with the general design; chamfered fillets, each made up of three thicknesses, in order to obtain the proper curvature, are nailed to the several rings to form stops for the glass.

The radial bars are framed into the several rings and secured at bottom to the cast-iron ornamented central portion of the window. Each radial bar is solid, having a scantling of 12 inches by 4½ inches at its upper end, and tapering to 2½ inches in thickness at its lower end, at a distance of 4 feet from the centre of the window; chamfered fillets 3 inches in depth, and 2½ inches in width, and tapering to 1 and 3-16ths inch at four feet from the centre of window, are fixed to each side of the radial bars. The semi-rings and radial bars are firmly secured together at their intersections by triangular blocks of elm, two being placed in each of the four angles, and bolted together by two ¾-inch bolts running diagonally through the blocks, the whole being further strengthened by angle-iron 3 inches wide by 1½ inches of an inch thick, coked into wooden segments, and secured to the radial bars. The central semicircular division, 8 feet in diameter, is formed of open cast-iron work, in seven compartments, six placed radially around the seventh, which forms a conical panel, whose projecting rim corresponds with the six radial divisions. The radial bars are all firmly fixed to the cast-iron central compartment; the

twenty-four upper compartments are all splayed at their angles, and the lower twenty-four compartments are finished with hollow cast-iron semicircular heads; the horizontal plate forming the lower part of the frame of the fan-light is of fir, 12½ inches wide by 6 inches thick at each end, but tapering towards the centre to 5½ inch; its upper side at the ends is two inches above the springing line of the arch. The sash-bars are of similar size and section to those of the vertical lights of the galleries, having a groove on either side to receive the glass; the glass is of the same description as that used in other parts of the building, being connected together at their meetings with leaden joint pieces. The whole is surmounted with an ornamental cast-iron frieze, somewhat similar to that shown in the View of part of the South Front, at page 432 (Dec. 7), but not nearly so pleasing to the eye of the critic.

THE FLOORING.

ALL the floorings of the Great Industrial Palace, with the exception of those of the offices and galleries, consist of inch-and-a-half deal floor boards: each board is of the usual width of 9 inches. For special reasons, the boards are not placed close together, but are separated by a space of ⅛ of an inch. In a paper lately read by Mr. Easton, on the general design and construction of the great building, he says, in reference to this kind of flooring:—"It is very economical, dry, clean, pleasant to walk upon; admits of the dust falling through the spaces, and even when it requires to be thoroughly washed, the water at once disappears betwixt the openings, and the boards become almost immediately fit for visitors. The joists are of fir, 9 inches by 3 inches, and 2 feet 5 inches from centre to centre; the joists rest on transverse sleepers, 13 inches by 3 inches; the sleepers are supported by vertical deal struts, which rest on the base plates of the cast-iron columns. The extent of flooring for the central aisle alone amounts to upwards of 3½ acres.

ROOFING.

The width of the south aisle from centre to centre of columns is 24 feet; and of the avenue running parallel therewith, 48 feet; the height of the columns, from the top level of the floor to the underside of the girders, is 22 feet 2 inches; the weight of the columns, having only the roofs to support, varies from 6 cwt. to 9 cwt. each; the cast-iron girders of the two side aisles, fixed at intervals of 24 feet from centre to centre, are each 23 feet 4 inches in length, and fit into sockets formed in the upper part of the columns; the depth of the girders throughout is 3 feet; deal-framed gutters, which are made up of 1½ inch deal sides secured to a bottom of the same material, and 2½ inches in thickness, rest on the tops of the transverse sleepers; the internal width of the gutters is 5 inches, and the greatest depth 5½ inches, being formed with false bottoms, laid to a proper inclination to carry off the water; the interior and exterior of the gutters receive the first coat of paint before being fixed in their places. These transverse gutters, which are fixed at intervals of 24 feet, from centre to centre, receive the water from the "Paxton" gutters running in parallel lines longitudinally throughout the whole building, the ends of which are notched on to the sides of the transverse gutters. As already fully described at page 434, the longitudinal gutters are all cut out of the solid wood by machinery, at Chelsea. The double-grooved skylight bars are notched on to the longitudinal gutters at bottom, and at top against the solid ridge-pieces; being secured at both ends by nails, holes for which are made by the drilling machinery described at page 8, No. 463. Both the longitudinal gutters and also the ridge-pieces are cambered throughout the whole of the roofing; the former being made to retain their form by tension rods screwed up to a cast-iron shoe at each end, and passing through the eye at the bottom of each of two cast-iron saddles, which are ¾ inches long. The top of each of these saddles is of circular form, 4 inches in diameter, and is properly secured to the under side of the longitudinal gutter. The skylight-bars, cut out by machinery, as already described at page 401, are formed with grooves to receive the glass; the advantage of this system is the security it affords to the putty, being not so much exposed to alternations of weather as when fixed into ordinary rebated-bars. The length of each square of glass is 49 inches, and its width 10 inches, and it weighs 16 oz. to the foot superficial.

In order to subdue the light which would be admitted to the interior of the building from so large a surface of glass, it is intended to cover the whole of the exterior with stout canvas. This will also preserve the glass from the destructive effects of hail-storms; although it has been abundantly proved to be strong enough to resist any hailstones which fall in this country. It has already had a pretty good test with regard to heavy rain.

In the temporary offices at the present entrance the skylights are covered with canvas; and, even at this season of the year—barring the fogs—the subdued light is not disagreeable.

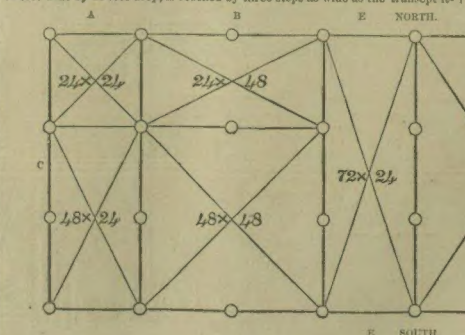
The above description of roofing will apply to the 48-feet avenue adjoining the south aisle; the only difference being the increased number of skylights, gutters, ridge-pieces, &c.; and the substitution of the wrought-iron trusses for the cast-iron trellis girders which span the side aisles transversely.

GREAT INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION OF 1851.

Scarcely a stream of visitors of all grades as flowed through Hyde-Park, last Sunday, the 9th inst., had never been remembered by "the oldest" park-keeper: led by the beauty of the day, and the attractions of the palace itself, the unbroken throng would itself round the precincts of the building so thickly that the ordinary pathway was obstructed to any pedestrian who did not sympathise with the gazing propensities of the thousands present. From the north bank of the Serpentine, the view of the noble building destined to be the shrine of industry of the present year, is extremely imposing, and the lofty trees, with their deep shadows, which somewhat interrupt the aspect of the length of the building, add to its character and eminence in a picturesque sense. Our subscribers and the public will receive a print of this view in next week's ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

The contest respecting the decoration of the interior is by no means quieted; the advocates of a bronze color are warmer than ever, relying for their strong point on the metallic character of the material, all confidence in the strength of the columns, say they, is lost, if you paint them in colours used for wooden poles. Employ iron grey, with a relief in gold, exclaims another party. We repeat our opinion, that, as Mr. Owen Jones is acknowledged to preserve the lightness of the structure, Mr. Owen Jones himself originally assented to the opinion of more than twenty of the principal architects, house decorators, &c., and found that no two agreed in their advice, before he made his own explicit declaration. We repeat our opinion, that, as Mr. Owen Jones is acknowledged to be thoroughly informed on the subject, responsibility should not be transferred with the opinion of a committee is generally patchwork, temporising, vague, and indecisive; that of an honest, well-informed man goes clearly and fearlessly to the mark. Meantime, Mr. Jones has been anything but indifferent to the suggestions poured upon him, though he remains true to his own principles.

The large entrance at the south end of the transept is far advanced; the lobby, 72 feet wide by 48 feet deep, is reached by three steps as wide as the transept itself.



self; folding doors, eight feet wide, will open into the interior of the building, the large detached elm stretching up to the handsome window of the transept will be found within the lobby.

* It is the opinion of scientific men, and of those who have most studied the effects of lightning, that this building has, in each of its supports, a perfect lightning conductor, which communicates directly with the earth, and is, therefore, quite safe.

The advance in the work during the past week has been confined principally to the laying down the flooring in various directions; together with the glazing of the transept.

We are glad to hear that Mr. Henderson, one of the contractors, will contribute a paper to the Society of Arts on the amount of labour expended on the erection of the "Crystal Palace." Such a statistical summary should certainly be preserved; and if the mechanical forces also engaged could be averaged, and computed into an equivalent of human labour, the wonders of the constructive power employed in the ancient temples, &c., would sink into nothing beside those of the building in Hyde-Park.

Deputations from Leeds, Huddersfield, Bradford, &c., headed by the Independent Mayors of Bradford, specially waited on the Executive Committee to express their views and wishes respecting the fitting-up of the counters, tables, &c.; but, finding that the arrangements in progress would so adequately meet the convenience and accommodation of all descriptions of contributors, they returned, expressing their hearty satisfaction and concurrence with the plans laid down by the Executive Committee.

Preparations to receive the goods of exhibitors have been duly progressed with. As we have previously stated, all articles must come in free of charge, &c., with the name, section, and class of exhibitor and his contributions. After having been sorted, the goods will be removed to their allotted space by Sappers and Miners, several men of which highly efficient service have been already attached to the staff of the Executive Committee. The several departments for foreign countries will be separated from each other. Exhibitors will be informed of the time when they may unpack and arrange their goods, and will receive a permit or pass of admission to the building for the necessary time occupied in arranging their wares, &c. A clear passage, eight feet wide, or two of five feet each, is to be allowed in every twenty-four feet allotted. Tables and counters (geometrical figures have been experimentally arranged, to convey some idea of the arrangement of the space for exhibitors). The following notice, which is highly important to all contributors, will be read with interest:—

Messrs. Fox, Henderson, and Co., the contractors, have to announce that they are prepared to receive and unpack articles for exhibition, take charge of the packing-cases, fit, work, and keep in repair the necessary stands, to supply glass-cases, stands, and other articles, to furnish and fit up open cases or shelves, and decorate stalls according to the wishes of the exhibitors, and at prices to be agreed upon, and of which estimates will be given on application, and to afford every facility generally in those arrangements which devolve upon the Exhibitors themselves, and respecting which they are permitted by the Commissioners to exceed their own limits and judgments. For full particulars, see the Committee, and Exhibitors are requested to communicate their wishes as early as possible to Messrs. Fox, Henderson, and Co., Building, Hyde-Park.

ORDER FOR FITTINGS TO BE FITTED UP BY THE EXHIBITOR.

To Messrs. Fox, Henderson, and Co., Building, Hyde-Park. Please to prepare the space allotted me in the Building (with counter and shelves), according to the accompanying plan: cover the same with canvas, velvet, cloth, &c., and prepare glass-cases, and will discharge the cost of doing so to my collection.

Exhibitor's signature _____ Address _____

NOTE.—The Executive Committee, upon receiving a request, and a copy of the plan and instructions sent to Messrs. Fox, Henderson, and Co., are prepared to issue a certificate that the fittings have been completed to those exhibitors who may not be able to superintend the work themselves.

The general principles of the official notice issued by the Executive Committee for the arrangement of articles are as follows:—

The productions of the United Kingdom and the British colonies will be grouped in the centre of the central aisle, in the thirty classes (which we specified some time back (vide No. 400, p. 43), as far as practicable, in the order of the productions of each colony will be placed together, classified.

The productions of each foreign country will be placed together eastward of the transept—except machinery in motion, which, on account of the motive power being at the north-west end of the building, must be placed in that part of the building. The productions of each country will be classified nation by nation, and as far as practicable into the thirty classes. As a general rule, machinery will be placed at the north side, and raw materials and produce brought to the south side of the building. The intermediate space will be occupied by manufactures and fine arts. There is hardly any choice in respect of light, which is nearly the same in all parts of the building. The south side, as well as the roof of the building, both in the north and south sides, will be covered with canvas. The sides of the upper and the gallery tier on the north will not be covered.

The following decisions may be here repeated:—

The Building will be provided to the exhibitors free from rent.

Any manufacturer exhibiting articles which can properly be placed together according to the classification already announced, will be at liberty to arrange such articles in his own way; and his arrangements, if compatible with the convenience of other exhibitors and of the public, will not be disturbed. In like manner, if it is wished to exhibit together the productions of a particular town or district, all such articles, if they can properly be placed together, will be admitted together. The ultimate decision, whether they are to be admissible or not, must, of course, rest in each case with the discretion of the Commissioners.

Producers of manufacture may be exhibited in a sufficient number of articles, however dissimilar, but they must not exceed what may be actually required.

In all cases where the productions of an individual are exhibited together, his wishes with regard to the treatment of them will be complied with as far as possible; but the exhibitor must defray the necessary expense himself. Glass-cases, frames, and stands of peculiar construction, and similar contrivances for the display or protection of the goods exhibited, must in like manner be provided by the person requiring them.

Should any exhibitor desire to employ a servant of his own to preserve or keep in order the articles he exhibits, or to explain them to visitors, he may do so, but he must be prepared to pay for such services. Such persons, however, so after obtaining permission from the Commissioners. These persons, however, will in all cases be forbidden to invite visitors to purchase the goods of their employers, the Exhibition being intended for the purpose of display only, and not for the sale of any article. Any violation of this or any other rule must lead to the exclusion from the building.

Machines, or trains of machinery in motion, may be managed and worked, as far as practicable, under the superintendence of the owners, and by their own men. The Commissioners will also find steam, not exceeding 30 lbs. per inch, gratuitously to the exhibitors, and convey it in clothed pipes to the parts of the building as require steam-power. Parties sending machines, or articles requiring to be driven by steam, should send with the same a small portable steam-engine, to which a steam-pipe can be laid on. The above will apply to all engines from one horse to ten horses; beyond which power it is presumed no single branch of manufacture or article will require steam-power. As regards machines too small to require an independent portable engine, arrangements will be made to place them in groups to be exhibited in communication with some steam-engine, also sent for exhibition in motion. Exhibitors proposing to exhibit portable steam-engines should arrange that their engines are to be employed for driving other machinery, unless the owners of the steam-engines object to such use.

Arrangements have been made to supply water at a high pressure gratuitously to exhibitors, who will have the privilege of adapting it to the working of their machinery, &c.

The Commissioners, accordingly, with confidence, resign to the exhibitors themselves the proper exhibition of their goods, and the responsibility of making the necessary preparations for displaying them, subject on a general rule to the exhibitors, and to kind or sell glass-cases, and other contrivances for the display of articles, which require to be protected by glass.

Every exhibitor who desires to attend himself, or by his representative, during the Exhibition, must obtain permission to do so from the Executive Committee. He must deduct the sitting or standing space for such attendant from the superficial area of the space allotted to him; but, he will be allowed to make up the deduction by building up and arranging the goods properly authenticated for admission on shelves, one above the other, within the boundary of his allotment, to any height he pleases, under 19 feet from the floor.

There will be a central passage, forty-eight feet wide, a corridor at the north and at the south side, each twelve feet wide, and two intermediate passages of eight feet, all running from the east to the west ends of the building. As a

general rule, these will be intersected by passages at right angles, running from north to south.

The building is divided laterally (i.e. to north to south) by ranges of columns twenty-four feet from centre to centre. Spaces of 24 x 24 feet, as at A, 24 x 24 feet, as at B and C, or 48 x 48 feet, as at D; and, in some cases, of 72 x 24 feet, as at E; or 72 x 48 feet, as at F; or 72 x 72 feet, as at G, running from north to south, may be arranged according to the wishes of the exhibitors; provided always, that in each such space there shall be at least one entrance

Mr. Sever, partly dependent at the time, had been invited by several of the London Press, that Gore House was to be converted into an hotel, with its grounds in the style of the Norm. park-lands such as a display for the property and the domain. It was the only study to develop the established and others for the display of the art and architecture, where I am now making preparations to receive many thousands of persons daily at 'my Symposium of all Nations'—an expression worthy of Vattel himself.

[illegible]

connected with the different clogs of brakes, and to be connected with the battery by a touch, so as to apply simultaneously and instantly any desirable amount of pressure to every clog.

Mr. Sirrell, the gold refiner, who was tried for receiving stolen goods, and acquitted, has, it is said, commenced legal proceedings against Milne, of the metropolitan detective force, for compensation for loss occasioned by reason of closing his premises.



HARE HUNTING.—THE MELT.

FIRING AT THE APPLE-TREE IN DEVONSHIRE.

Amongst the scenes of jocund hospitality in this holiday season, that are handed down to us, is one which not only presents an enlivening picture, but offers proof of the superstition that still prevails in the western counties. On "Twelfth Eve," in Devonshire, it is customary for the farmer to leave his warm fireside, accompanied by a band of rustics, with guns, blunderbusses, &c., presenting an appearance which at other times would be somewhat alarming. Thus armed, the band proceed to an adjoining orchard, where is selected one of the most fruitful and aged of the apple-trees, grouping round which they stand and offer up their invocations in the following quaint doggerel rhyme:—

Here's to thee,
Old apple-tree!
Whence thou may'st find,
And whence thou may'st blow,
And whence thou may'st hear

Apples snow:
Hats full!
Caps full!
Bushels, bushels, sacks full,
And my pockets full too!
Huzza! Huzza!

The cider jug is then passed round, and, with many a hearty shout, the party fire off their guns, charged with powder only, amidst the branches, sometimes frightening the owl from its midnight haunt. With confident hopes they return to the farm-house, and are refused admittance, in spite of all weather, till some lucky wight guesses aright the peculiar roast the maidens are preparing for their comfort. This done, all enter, and soon right merrily the jovial glass goes round—that man who gained admission receiving the honour of "king for the evening," and till a late hour he reigns, amidst laughter, fun, and jollity. The origin of this custom is not known, but is supposed to be one of great antiquity.

The illustration is from a Sketch by Mr. Colebrooke Stockdale.



FIRING AT THE APPLE-TREE, IN DEVONSHIRE.

MR. JOHN PARRY.

On Tuesday evening Mr. John Parry repeated his "Notes, Vocal and Instrumental," at the Store-street Rooms, to a crowded audience. The various imitations and musical conceits in this entertainment are truly amazing; and the performer's powers of description by means of the piano-forte are unbounded. Amongst the most striking features are his excellent impersonation of a Welsh girl, in which he sings a Welsh song with remarkable success; and of a music-master and his grand opera of "Douglas," with an overpowering "crescendo chorus," and the pastoral ballad of "My Name is Norval;" his imitations of amateur vocalists, and young lady pianists; his clever impersonation of an Artist, with an instantaneous change of costume (See the Illustration); a visit to the Park, with drums and fife, and the march of soldiers imitated by rattling the keys; a visit to Astley's, and the "rapid act of horsemanship;" the bear's running accompaniment on the wires of his den at



MR. JOHN PARRY—THE ARTIST.

the Zoological Gardens; and a host of other plesantries. This entertainment is very superior to the first.

NOOKS AND CORNERS OF OLD ENGLAND.

THE GOSPEL OAK, AVINGTON.

This venerable tree stands in Hampage Wood, close to the deer-park of Avington, in the parish of Avington, Hampshire, late the property of the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, now in the possession of John Shelley, Esq. It is impossible to ascertain the age of this ancient relic; but that it was standing long before the Conquest, is certain. The "Gospel Oak" of Hampage has unaccountably escaped the notice of Milner and Dutty, the historians of the neighbouring districts. This appears the more strange from a detailed account given by the former of a most material portion of its traditional history. In his "History of Winchester," he recounts that Walkelin, relative and chaplain of the Conqueror, by whom he was made Bishop of that diocese, undertook the great work of rebuilding the cathedral and the adjoining monastery at his own expense, the former edifice having been destroyed by the pagan Danes. It was a great undertaking; but an incident which took place in the course of the work, is related as a proof alike of the ready wit of the Bishop and the generosity of the Conqueror. The prelate, finding himself much distressed for timber, applied to the King for such supplies as he might be pleased to afford. William, without much reflection, told him he might take as much timber from his wood of Hampage, in the neighbourhood of Winchester, as he could cut down and carry away in three days. The Bishop resolved to avail himself of the grant to its utmost limit, and accordingly collected all the workmen of the country, and cut every tree of the forest, with the exception (as will hereafter appear) of the subject of the present Engraving, and carried all to Winchester within the prescribed time. The King happened to be then absent from the city, but, returning over the eastern downs, a few days afterwards, he observed to his attendants with astonishment, "Have I lost my senses? Certainly, I thought I had a wood here adjoining to Winchester!" Being informed of the proceedings of his cousin Walkelin, he was greatly incensed at his conduct, and was with difficulty appeased.

Long before the Conquest, and for some subsequent centuries, there were religious houses in the valley of the Itchen; one of them was a priory at Yavington, in the parish of Avington, very near the north end of Hampage Wood; and the portion of tradition omitted by Milner, but there handed down from father to son is, that when the Prior and his monks heard of the Conqueror's grant to Walkelin, they, with others, petitioned the Bishop that this old oak (old at that time) might be spared, in consequence of the Gospel in the early days of Christianity in this country having been preached under its wide-spreading branches. Their petition was granted, and the interesting ruin



GOSPEL OAK AT AVINGTON.



THE SALLE DE ROBIN, PICCADILLY.

still stands, a striking monument of the longevity of the oak and of the piety of our ancestors. It is now dead, the last small branch having, in the past year, shed its last leaves. The present Lord of the Manor, Mr. Shelley, anxious to preserve as far as possible so precious a relic, has girded it with an iron belt, which may keep it standing many years longer.

SALLE DE ROBIN.

The excellence of M. Robin's *Soirées Fantastiques* induces us to recur to the subject, and to present an illustration of what may justly be called one of the great situations in his most popular drama of illusion. The scene is one of simulated clairvoyance. M. Robin leads on Madame blindfolded, and seats her on an ottoman in the centre of the stage, fronting the audience; having done which, he traverses the platform from the stage to the boxes, and gathers from the assembly watches, trinkets, rings, and other articles, and calls upon the supposed clairvoyant to describe them, which she does without hesitation, and with the most perfect exactness. The distance, and all other circumstances, seemed to preclude collusion; but as, of course, there is acknowledged illusion in all the wonders exhibited at these *soirées*, it would be ridiculous to suppose any other ground for the appearances than a previous arrangement and perfect understanding between all the parties concerned.

M. Robin's audience is largely on the increase, and it becomes clear that his present *salle* will not suffice to contain the numbers that nightly will be attracted to performances so elegant in all manipulated qualities, and calculated to excite so much surprise. The greatest wonder still continues to be that most surprising trick—which he claims as his own exclusive invention—"la double van de Madame Robin," as he calls it. How the lady, and the gentleman who follows her, are conveyed away from under the cylinder, without observation, placed as they are on a flat table, open all round, passes our imagination to conceive. We have now witnessed the trick twice, and watched every movement in its exhibition, and cannot detect the slightest clue to the solution.

It would, perhaps, add to the interest of the exhibition, if M. Robin would indulge the audience with an interpreter, as his explanations escape wholly those who are ignorant of French, and deprive them, of course, of the full pleasure arising from the *soirée*. Both he and Madame are, however, we perceive, acquiring the use of some English phrases, and introduced them where they could on the evening when we were present. They will do well, at any rate, to cultivate this habit, and may, in a comparatively short time, be thereby able to render the whole performance intelligible to their audience. It may be remarked, that M. Robin distributes, at one part of the *soirée*, a number of fans and other trifles, out of a well-stored cornucopia, and also a quantity of "punch de Lucifer," fabricated in a small but apparently inexhaustible bowl. This liberality, and the good humour with which he conducts the whole *soirée*, alike conduce to the immense popularity of those really curious and desecrating Parisian novelties.

THE REVENUE.

The usual official Abstract of the Revenue Returns for the year and quarter ending the 31st inst., have been published, from which it appears that there is a deficiency on the quarter of £109,428, which is accounted for in the following manner:—

	DECREASE.	
Customs	£123,925	
Stamps	50,139	
Property Tax	30,664	
Miscellaneous	38,017	
	£242,745	
From this must be deducted the		
Excise	£20,559	
Taxes	25,692	
	115,941	
Imprest and other Moneys	7,150	
Repayment of Advances	10,207	
	133,317	
Net decrease	£109,428	

On the other hand, for the year ending with this quarter, there is an increase of £164,922; and the amount of surplus revenue in hand at this time, after providing for the charges on the Consolidated Fund, and for the payment of supply-services in Great Britain, is no less than £1,012,817.

CUSTOMS REVENUE OF LIVERPOOL.—The revenue of the Customs of Liverpool, for the present quarter, is slightly in decrease of the last, the amount being £216,734, received this quarter, against £255,532, received in the corresponding quarter of last year; the actual deficiency being £38,798. This deficiency on the quarter, a deficiency being also found to exist in the accounts for the United Kingdom, may in part be attributed to the reduction of the duty on sugar, which came into operation on the 1st of October. The revenue for Liverpool for the year was, in 1849, £3,472,205, against £3,369,284, showing a decrease in the year of £102,921.

SAVAGES AT SEA.—Captain Daley, the commander of the *Jeremiah Garrett* (which lately arrived at Liverpool from Shanghai), reports that, on the 7th of September he fell in with two canoes, which contained 19 savages, of a copper colour, tattooed all over, and in a state of nudity. By signs and other means of interpretation it was gathered from them that they had been blown out to sea 13 days previously from the Islands of St. David's. They were received on board the *Jeremiah Garrett* and fed, but one of the poor wretches died the same evening. Captain Daley bore up for St. David's (which lies off New Guinea), and there landed them.

NELL GWYN.—The Coal-yard in Drury-lane, a low alley, the last on the east or City side of the lane, and still known by that name, was, it is said, the place of Nell Gwyn's birth. They show, however, in Pipe-lane, in the parish of St. John, in the city of Hereford, a small house of brick and timber, now little better than a hovel, in which she is reputed to have been born. That the

Coal-yard was the place of her birth was stated in print as early as 1721, and was copied by Oldys, a curious inquirer into literary and dramatic matters, in the account of her life which he wrote for Carl. Of the early history of Nell little is known, and that little with no great degree of certainty. Still less is known of the rank in life of her father and mother: her father, it is said, was a fruiterer in Covent-garden. She speaks in her will of her "kinsman Cholmley," perhaps the nearest relation she then had. Her mother, who lived to see her daughter a favourite of the King, and the mother by the Merry Monarch of at least two children, was accidentally drowned in a pond near the Nest Houses at Chelsea. Whatever was the condition in life which she was born, her bringing up, by her own account, was humble and degrading enough. The Coal-yard, infamous in later years as one of the residences of Jonathan Wild, was the next turning in the same street to the still more notorious and fashionably inhabited Lewkner's-lane.—From Mr. P. Cunningham's piquant "Story of Nell Gwyn," in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for the present month.

CALIFORNIA GOLD.—Another "big jump" has been received in this country from the mines of California, whence it was taken by a young man, John Hughes, of Ardglass, county Down, Ireland. It weighs 18 lb. 13 dw., and is of rare purity.

Mr. Love, the Polyphonist, on the evening of New Year's Day, gave his assumed entertainment, before a large company, at Stanwick Park, the seat of his Grace the Duke of Northumberland; the party numbered about 300, and on the following evening a still larger number were present; on each occasion the apartment being fitted up with a stage and gallery, like a theatre.

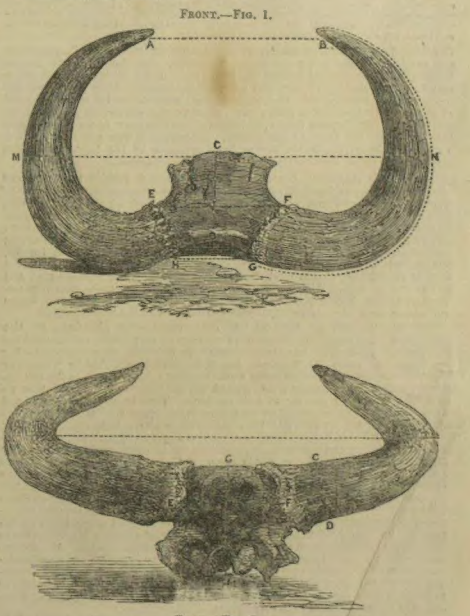
GIGANTIC HORNS FOUND IN CUMBERLAND.

The accompanying Sketches are from a pair of Gigantic Horns, recently found on Burgh Moss, near Carlisle.

The outer horn or surface has quite perished, and all that remains is the heart of the horn and the intervening part of the skull. This is quite petrified, and the depth at which it was found (being 17 feet beneath the bed of the Eden) are strong evidences of its great age. The flexion of the Horns, and the dimensions, seem unquestionably to indicate some animal of the *Urus* (mentioned by Caesar, book vi.) or *Bos primæ genericæ* species, and may, at some remote period, have been brought down by the stream from the ancient forest of Ingelwood.

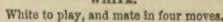
A B	Distance between the points of the horns	2 feet 11 inches.
B G	Length of the convex surface of horns	2 " 9 "
G H	6 " 8 "
H O H A	6 " "
M N	Extreme width of the horns	1 " 0 "
F G	Circumference of the horns	3 " 2 1/2 "
	Weight of the whole	1 " 3 "

These dimensions refer to Fig. 1, which best shows the peculiarities of the horns. Kirkcandrew-on-Eden, Carlisle. J. B. N.



GIGANTIC HORNS FOUND IN CUMBERLAND.

loi contenue dans les deux actes ci-dessus des Dessins-modèles de 1842 et 1843.



COMMITTEE FOR PARIS.
MM. Le Duc de Caraman, *Président*.
Devinck
Le Général Baron } *Vice-*
de Vauxne } *Présidents.*
Le Comte de Pontalba.
Le Vicomte de Vautreland.
Chamouillet.
Sasias.
Crampnel.
Journoud.
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Dab...

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